

Amendments to the Specification

Replace paragraph [0007] with the following:

Several problems have made the use of ex situ writers commercially unfeasible. For example, it is not feasible to unload their servowriter heads onto a textured landing zone after servowriting. ~~Applicant has limited knowledge of an ex situ multi-disc STW with an unload ramp structure that can be positioned near the outer diameter of a stack of horizontal discs. This STW, developed by Phase Metrics of Fremont, California, uses a sliding plate to position the ramp structure and a rotary actuator simultaneously. Unfortunately, the exact composition and operation of this ramp structure might not be public and is not known to Applicant. From extensive experience in this field, however, Applicant does know that positioning a ramp structure affixed to a massive plate that also supports a rotary actuator for accessing a disc stack is unduly expensive and/or imprecise.~~

Replace paragraph [0034] with the following:

Advantageously, the vertical orientation of the sliding assembly 602 prevents the force of gravity from pulling the heads 804 downward. This is important both during the loading and unloading of the heads 804 onto the discs 110 as well as during the servo writing process itself. For instance, while the support element 310 acts to separate the heads 804 prior to the loading process, it is noted that the support element 310 typically contacts the flexures 826 rather than the fragile heads 804 located at a distal end of the flexures 826. Thus, with horizontally-oriented STWs, the force of gravity may tend to pull the heads 804 downward below the level of the individual support element arm or tine, thereby creating a danger of inadvertent contact between the hanging head 804 and the disc 110 prior to the disengagement of the support element 310 from the flexures 826. This danger is avoided in the current invention since the force of gravity does not tend to pull the heads 804 in the direction of the discs. Additionally, during the servo writing process utilizing the present invention, the force of gravity does not tend to pull the heads 804 either toward or away from their respective disc surfaces as in the prior art. That is, in a horizontally-oriented STW, half of the heads are typically positioned adjacent a top surface of a disc, while the other half of the heads are positioned adjacent a bottom surface of a disc. For those heads positioned above their respective discs, the force of gravity on the flexure 826 and the head 804 is support element in conjunction

with the preload force generated by the flexure 826, while for those heads positioned below their respective discs the force of gravity acts against the preload force. This dichotomy can create fluctuations in the preload force for the different heads within the STW which ultimately leads to discrepancies in the "fly height" of the head over the disc surface. While the preload force provided by the flexure is typically much greater than the weight of the flexure and head support element in combined, even minor discrepancies in the fly height of the head during the servo writing process can lead to errors in the servo pattern.

Replace paragraph [0036] with the following:

A perspective view of the sliding assembly 602 in relation to the STW of Fig. 6 is shown in Fig. 7. The sliding assembly 602 includes an a sliding block 762 housing a rotational air bearing and a translational air bearing (not labeled), an actuator 320 that includes an E-block, several actuator arms 240 carrying recording heads 140 thereon, a DC torque, brushless motor 768 or like motor for actuating the rotational air bearing 152, a sliding mechanism 754 for translational movement of the sliding block 762, and a laser transducer assembly for coordinating the motor's movement with the servo recording head's position.